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Sports

Basketball campers at Circleville High School had a special visit from a member of the Ohio State coaching staff. The Bulls are preparing for what may be their last game together in Chicago. Dayton International Speedway is testing out new lights. See Sports, Page 6.

Focus

The popular Beanie Babies have a hold on collectors, who buy, sell and trade the little stuffed animals. See Focus, Page 9.

Index

Abby	15
Births	5
Classifieds	13-14
Comics	15
Editorial Page	4
Entertainment	11
Focus	9
Helios	10
Horoscope	15
Investor's Guide	12
Lifestyles	10
Market Report	12
Obituaries	5
Public Meetings	5
Sports	6-7

Weather

Today, partly sunny with scattered thunderstorms. Severe storms and heavy rain possible this afternoon. Breezy with a high in the mid 80s. South wind 15 to 25 mph becoming southwest. Chance of rain 40 percent.

Tonight, showers and thunderstorms likely. Severe storms and heavy rain possible. Low in the upper 60s. Southwest wind 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 70 percent.

Saturday, a mix of clouds and sunshine with a 40 percent chance of showers or thunderstorms. High in the upper 70s.

Extended forecast: Sunday, dry. Lows 60 to 65 and highs in the 80s. Monday and Tuesday, a chance of thunderstorms. Lows 60 to 65 and highs in the 70s.

The record-high temperature for this date at the Columbus weather station was 94 set in 1954, while the record low was 43 set in 1980.

Lottery

CLEVELAND (AP) — Here are Thursday night's Ohio Lottery selections:

Pick 3 Numbers

4-0-9

Pick 4 Numbers

1-0-5-7

Buckeye 5

3-9-14-16-33

The Super Lotto jackpot is \$8 million.

Pick up photos

Photographs that were brought in before June 1 to The Herald for publication should be picked up by June 22, including graduation photos. Readers can pick them up from boxes in the front office. Submitted photos unclaimed by

Check out hurricanes



in the Mini Pages

By Betty Debram

Appearing in The Herald Saturday.

Ashville native honored with U.S. Entrepreneur of the Year recognition

By SHAUNA FOUT

The Herald
At 28, Charles "Charlie" Fortner, a former Ashville resident and 1988 Teays Valley High School graduate, can add a highly prestigious award to his resume.

Fortner, who in 1995 opened Island Page, a paging company in Oahu, Hawaii, with the help of two business partners, has recently been awarded the national Young Entrepreneur of the Year award by the Small Business Administration.

"I'm not one to put myself in the limelight," Fortner said of his recent success, adding that he is honored by the recognition he has received as a result.

The son of Chester and Arlene Fortner, residents and active community service volunteers in Ashville, Charlie began his own local "business" at a young age.

In third grade, he bought pencils at the Ashville Apothecary and made them into popular items by putting fuzzy tops on them — a former fad. Being a hot item at the time, he sold the fuzzy-topped pencils to his classmates for a small profit. Charlie also made some extra money by trading baseball cards here and there.

As his business skills were enhanced, he got his first job helping out at Fortner Auto Supply, the family-owned store formerly operated by his late grandfather, Bill Fortner. It was at that time, Charlie said, that he knew he would like to be successful at owning his own business.

While at Teays Valley High School, Charlie decided to take a position on the school newspaper staff as a photographer. His interest in cameras and photography extended outside the high school walls as he took a position at The Studio, a local photography store where he ran the one-hour photo

"I always hoped that he would be successful... We really think this is great. His dad and I think this is wonderful. We're really proud of him."

— Arlene Fortner

machine and worked as a photographer, taking portrait photos and printing them in a custom lab.

After high school graduation, Charlie attended The Ohio State University, earning a finance degree in 1993.

While in college, Charlie's business mind was constantly working. He and a cousin often visited flea markets and garage sales in search of unknown treasures. A self-employed broker, Charlie would buy government surplus and commercial equipment at a low cost and, after researching the products, would sell them for a profit. His resale earnings helped him purchase his first car.

"I always hoped that he would be successful," Charlie's mother, Arlene, said. "I didn't really realize until he was out of high school that he had it in him."

Following graduation from college in 1993, Charlie began working at SPS Communications, a paging company in Columbus. At one point, the company's owner, Steven P. Shirk, asked Charlie to fill in for a couple of weeks after a former technician left with little notice.

Weeks turned into months and before long, Charlie was managing SPS's resellers, collections and computer departments.

Shirk and his partner, Dr. Martin Dixon, spent some time researching business opportunities in Hawaii. They spoke with Charlie about their business plans and in February 1994, the three traveled to Hawaii to do some market research.

After surveying the area and discussing the possibilities, progress was taking shape with Charlie gaining more responsibility by the minute. When asked, he agreed to accept the challenge of starting a business in Hawaii — from scratch.

Six months later I arrived (in Hawaii) without a clue where to stay or what to do," Charlie said of his arrival in the aloha state, an exotic location that would soon become his new home.

"I did everything myself," Charlie said, mentioning that he was responsible for getting the necessary inventory, office furniture, showrooms and equipment. He even installed the telephone and computer lines himself.

With some advice from Dr. Jay Cambra, a dentist in Millilani, Hawaii, who he met through a mutual friend, Charlie negotiated the leases for various transmitter sites and installed each transmitter personally. Charlie credits Cambra for steering him in the right direction in the start-up phase of the business.

Island Page was officially in business March 29, 1995.

Within the first three months of operation, Charlie was the only employee, opening and closing the store seven days a week. It was not long, however, until Charlie had a successfully growing business.

In 1996, Island Page surpassed the number of subscribers of its parent company here in Ohio, in addition to its own projections. According to Charlie, first-year

See ASHVILLE NATIVE, Page 3



Festival queen crowned

Kacie Scarberry, who turns 17 today, was crowned Commercial Point Homecoming Queen. She is the daughter of Phil and Rose Ann Scarberry of Ashville. First attendant (left) is Amanda Perrell, 15, daughter of Glenn and Lucinda Gulick of Commercial Point and Michael Perrell of Ashville. Second attendant (right) is Laura Pratt, 16, daughter of Don and Debbie Pratt of Ashville. All attend Teays Valley High School. The festival runs through Sunday with the Grand Parade at 2 p.m. Sunday.

City fire chief selects temporary station site

By JACK MADER

The Herald

Circleville will soon have one of its fire engines and a crew to man it stationed north of the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks.

The temporary facility will be set up at the city's water department maintenance facility located at the corner of Pickaway and Ohio streets, Fire Chief Tim Tener said.

Since April, the entire fire department has been operating out of the South Court Street fire station, located in the far south end of town. On April 24 the Franklin Street fire station, which is well over a century old, was condemned and closed because its deterioration had reached the point where the

building was considered unsafe for occupancy. Walls are bulging, termite have ravaged parts of the building, and the stairs to the second floor appear to be in danger of collapse.

City building inspector Al Sheldon has obtained some figures on what it might cost to renovate the building or tear it down. He said he has two preliminary estimates on demolition, but they don't include the cost of an asbestos survey that would have to be done \$35,000 to demolish the structure.

To renovate the building, Sheldon said one estimate puts the cost at about \$100 per square foot. The building contains 6,200 feet

space, so that would be the cost at \$60,000. To fix the building up and convert it to another use, such as office space, Sheldon estimates would cost around \$1 million.

Sheldon said the renovation problem could be a difficult proposition.

The closure meant all of the city's firefighting capability was located south of the railroad tracks, an average of 35 trains a day travel through the city. Other local trains often block crossings during switching operations. The potential delays associated with the railroad tracks has had several

city members clamoring for a quick decision on where to temporarily put part of the fire department until the new station can be built on North Court Street.

Tener has looked at several locations and has settled on the Water Department facility. The building has a bay (garage area) that is large enough to house a fire truck. Tener said a modular office-type building will be leased and placed on the property. It will serve as living quarters and office space for the firefighters who will man the engine.

Tener said the building lease is for 18 months and will cost \$3,200. The chief said he may have to get approval of Circleville's Planning and Zoning Commission before the temporary station can be set up. If that's the case, he esti-

mates it will be mid-July before the station will be ready. If P & Z approval is not required, Tener feels the facility can be ready in about two weeks.

Tener had a detailed report on the temporary fire station plans ready for presentation at Tuesday's scheduled Circleville City Council Safety Committee meeting. However, only the committee's chairman, Anne Bella Canan, showed up. Members Dave Martin and Ron Wunsch did not attend the meeting, resulting in a lack of quorum that prevented any business from being conducted.

Canan said she was surprised by the members' absence, noting nei-

See CITY FIRE CHIEF, Page 3

Report: Skilled workers difficult to find

Areas tested

Areas tested by ACT Inc. for the Ohio Business Roundtable and the State Department of Education to determine whether high school seniors have the skills to enter the workforce.

Applied mathematics: Applying mathematical reasoning to a variety of work-related problems. Reading for information: Reading and understanding written work-related instructions and policies. Applied technology: Solving problems of a technological

nature, such as applying principles of mechanics, electricity, thermodynamics or fluid mechanics to machines and systems.

Interpreting information: Interpreting and using workplace graphics, such as diagrams, floor plans, tables, forms, graphs, charts and instrument gauges.

Students tended to do poorest in the applied technology and locating information sections, largely because neither are generally included in most students' course work.

By increasing academic standards.

Both Goff and Saterfield said that many of the skills sought by business could be incorporated into existing courses.

Failure to close the gap, however, could have serious consequences for the state's economy, Saterfield warned.

See REPORT: SKILLED, Page 3

Farmer hurt in accident

A Pickaway County man had a narrow escape Thursday afternoon when he became entangled in a piece of farm machinery — by the neck.

The accident occurred shortly after 3 p.m. at 13121 Yanketown Pike.

According to Sgt. Mark Hoffman of the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office, Ted Rogers, 45, was changing a chain on a hay baler, and was being assisted by his father. Somehow, a bar and chain caught Rogers by the throat, pinning him to the apparatus and causing him to hang by the neck.

Rogers' father and a neighbor eventually managed to free the victim, who reportedly lost consciousness for approximately five minutes.

Rogers was taken to Berger Hospital, where he is being treated for a possible fractured right wrist and possible neck injuries.

— JACK MADER